Affairs Department, Government of Kerala for financial assistance for setting up of Regional Food Processing cum Packing Centres at Ernakulam, Panthanamthitta and Malappuram in Kerala. The proposal has been scrutinized and required clarifications/supporting information have been called for.

Food Parks in Andhra Pradesh

566. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of food parks in the State of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry does not set up food parks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any assistance is given to the State or entrepreneurs by Government in the form of cold storage facilities, warehousing facilities, effluent treatment plant, food testing laboratories, etc;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether his Ministry has made any survey about the utilization of fruits and vegetables for processing in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(g) if so, the details thereof in the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, with a view to make available infrastructural facilities to processing units, under its plan schemes, provides financial assistance @ 25% of project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% of project cost in difficult areas, subject to maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore, for provision of common facilities in Food Parks such as power supply, water supply, cold storage, warehousing facilities, effluent treatment plant, food testing analytical laboratories, common processing facilities etc. The assistance is available to all implementing agencies including State Government undertakings, cooperative, private entities who come forward with viable proposals. The Government does not set up food parks on its own. The Ministry has approved one Food Park for providing financial assistance at Kuppam, District Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

The components of cold storage, warehousing, effluent treatment plant, food testing laboratories etc. are eligible common facilities for assistance under the Plan scheme for Food Parks. In addition, financial assistance is also separately available upto 25% / 33.33% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works in General/Difficult areas for setting up of cold storages for non-horticulture produce and special cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere. Assistance is also separately available for setting up/upgradation of Quality Control Laboratory upto to the cost of capital equipment for central/State Government Organizations. IITs and Universities and upto 33.33%/50% of cost of capital equipment for other implementation agencies in general/ difficult areas.

No specific study has been conducted about utilization of fruits and vegetables for processing in State of Andhra Pradesh. However, nationally the level of processing of fruits and vegetables is estimated at about 2.2%.

Seats in Technical Institutes

†567. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to increase the number of seats in technical institutes of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on failing to maintain the level of standard and quality by some institutes their intake was curtailed and some of them were placed under no-admission category;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the above institutes have also been allowed to give admissions now; and

(f) whether these institutes have improved their level of standard and quality?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.